

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 10226

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CU VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CALDERA ON TIES WITH CUBA

1. DURING WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 29 PRESIDENT WAS ASKED ABOUT NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT OF ORGANIZATION CALLED "VENEZUELAN SOCIETY FOR DEFENSE OF TRADITION, THE FAMILY AND PROPERTY" ASKING THAT GOV NOT REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA. CALDERA SAID HE DETECTED "AN ELECTORAL FLAVOR" IN THE AD AND THAT HAVING RELATIONS WITH A COUNTRY DOES NOT SIGNIFY APPROVAL OF ITS FORM OF GOVERNMENT. HE STATED VENEZUELA WANTS RELATIONS WITH ALL PEOPLES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH CLOSE AND NATURAL TIES, AND THAT ATTEMPTS TO ISOLATE COUNTRIES SUCH AS CUBA IN STATE OF QUARANTINE DOES NOT DAMAGE THEM. CALDERA SAID HE SYMPATHIZES WITH CUBAN EXILES IN VENEZUELA WHO HAVE ENCOUNTERED PERSONAL TRAGEDIES AS RESULT OF CUBAN REVOLUTION. HOWEVER, ALLUDING TO AD'S INVOLVING CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE IN SUPPORT OF ITS POSITION, CALDERA DRILY NOTED THAT VATICAN ITSELF HAS RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

2. COMMENT: AS EMBASSY NOTED IN CARACAS 7155 OF AUGUST 17,
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MANY CUBAN EXILES HERE ARE GENUINELY UPSET OVER PROSPECTS OF

VENEZUELA'S REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CASTRO. ADS CALLING FOR AVOIDANCE OF THIS ACTION HAVE APPEARED IN RECENT WEEKS BUT, AS SHOWN BY CALDERA'S REMARKS, ARE NOT IN THEMSELVES EFFICACIOUS. MAIN REASON THAT RELATIONS HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN REESTABLISHED IS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION THAT ANNOUNCING TIES AT THIS TIME COULD DAMAGE GOVERNMENT PARTY'S ELECTORAL CHANCES. HOWEVER, WHOEVER WINS ON DECEMBER 9, REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA SHORTLY THEREAFTER BY OUTGOING CALDERA ADMINISTRATION IS ALMOST A FOREGONE CONCLUSION.
MCCLINTOCK

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